

Northeast Anchored Float Gillnet Fishery

Fishing gear type: Gillnet

Current category: Category II*

Basis for current classification on the LOF: Based on analogy with other Category II gillnet fisheries that use similar gear and operate in a similar manner to this fishery.

Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed: Harbor seal, Western North Atlantic (WNA); Humpback whale, Gulf of Maine; White-sided dolphin, WNA.

Estimated number of current participants: 662

Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery: Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP), 50 CFR 229.32.

Year added to the LOF: Current fishery added in 2001 though fishery was included in “Gulf of Maine small pelagics surface gillnet” from 1996-2001.

Category when originally listed under current fishery name: Category II

Basis for original classification on the LOF: This fishery was categorized as a Category II based on anecdotal reports a mortality of a white-sided dolphin and an entanglement of a humpback whale. Although there had been little effort in the fishery in the years prior to the 1996 LOF, this fishery was proposed to be listed as Category I because it had been a Category I on the 1994 LOF (created under the interim LOF process established under section 114 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act [MMPA]). However, because the reports were anecdotal and there was little effort in this fishery, NMFS categorized it as a Category II in the final 1996 LOF (under the LOF process established under the 1994 amendments to the MMPA). NMFS stated that Category II was warranted because the fishery operated in an area of high marine mammal concentration and there was a reported mortality.

Estimated number of participants when originally listed: 133

Past names, if any: “Gulf of Maine small pelagics surface gillnet fishery” until 2001.

Gear description/method for fishing: This fishery uses gillnet gear of any size anchored and fished in the upper two-thirds of the water column.

Target species: Mackerel, herring (particularly for bait), shad, and menhaden.

Spatial/temporal distribution of effort: The fishery operates from the U.S.-Canada border to Long Island, New York, at 72° 30'W. long south to 36° 33.03'N. lat. (corresponding with the Virginia-North Carolina border) and east to the eastern edge of the EEZ, not including Long Island Sound or other waters where gillnet fisheries are listed as Category III.

Levels of observer coverage each year[†]: During the period 1990-2007, estimated observer coverage (number of trips observed/total commercial trips reported) for Northeast sink gillnet, Northeast anchored float gillnet, and

* The fishery is classified by analogy to other gear types or fisheries that are known to cause mortality or serious injury of marine mammals.

[†] Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Report (SAR).

Northeast driftnet fisheries was 1%, 6%, 7%, 5%, 7%, 5%, 4%, 6%, 5%, 6%, 6%, 4%, 2%, 3%, 6%, 7%, 4%, and 7%, respectively.

Management and regulations: The fishery is managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission [ASMFC] under the Interstate Fishery Management Plans (ISFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and Shad and is subject to ALWTRP implementing regulations. A total closure of the American shad ocean intercept fishery was fully implemented in January, 2005.

History of Changes on the LOF

2011 LOF: Estimated number of participants updated from 133 to 662. This estimation may be an inflation of actual effort; however, it represents the potential effort for the fishery, given the multiple gear types several state permits may allow for.

2009 LOF: Clarified the boundary description for effort in this fishery by adding the following language (in italics), "...a from the U.S.- Canada border to Long Island, New York, at 72° 30'W. long. south to 36° 33.03'N. lat. (*corresponding with the Virginia-North Carolina border*) and east to the eastern edge of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)..."

2008 LOF:

- Changed the name of the stock of humpback whales interacting with this fishery from "WNA" to "Gulf of Maine" to reflect the interactions taking place between this fishery and the Gulf of Maine feeding stock of humpback whales. The Gulf of Maine stock was classified as a separate feeding stock and reported as such in the 2000 Stock Assessment Report (SAR)
- Updated the fishery description to reflect that this fishery is now subject to ALWTRP implementing regulations under an October 5, 2007, rulemaking (72 FR 57104, October 5, 2007).

2007 LOF:

- Reworded the fishery description to better align with management boundaries under the ALWTRP by removing "...from the Maine/Canada border through the waters east of 72° 30'W..." and replaced with "...from the U.S./Canada border to Long Island, New York, at 72° 30'W. long south to 36° 33.03'N. lat. and east to the eastern edge of the EEZ..."
- Added herring, mackerel, and menhaden (and reiterated the inclusion of shad) to target species in this fishery.

2006 LOF: Added a superscript "2" in Table 2 after this fishery, indicating that this fishery is categorized by analogy.

2001 LOF:

- Renamed from the "Gulf of Maine small pelagics surface gillnet fishery" to the "Northeast anchored float gillnet fishery" to include anchored pelagic gillnet effort in other parts of the Northeast Atlantic and for species other than small pelagics. This fishery now covered the use of any size gillnet for any target species that was anchored and fished in the upper two-thirds of the water column, not including sink gillnet fishing listed as Category III inshore gillnet fisheries.
- Added shad to the list of target species in this fishery as a result of the deletion of the "Gulf of Maine, Southeast U.S. Atlantic Coastal shad, sturgeon fishery" from the LOF.